

Silicon Times Report  
"The Original Independent Online Magazine"  
(Since 1987 - Our 11th Year)

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Post Office Box 6672  
Jacksonville, Florida 32236-6672  
R.F. Mariano, Editor  
STR Publishing, Inc.  
Voice: 1-904-292-9222 10am-5pm EST  
FAX: 904-268-2237 24hrs  
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NSF KILLS FUNDING FOR INTERNET DEVELOPMENT  
WINDOWS 98 TO SHIP BY JUNE 25  
LESSIG & JACKSON BOTH MUST GO!

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The Publisher, Staff & Editors

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From the Editor's Desk...

Today is the FIRST DAY of SPRING!

It never ceases to amaze me. What am I talking about? Here's the scoop. How can we as mature adults expect our children to be of fine character, upstanding and trustworthy when our own politicians are of shallow character and do not keep their word? First, the State of Florida guided by Lawton Chiles and now, the State of Texas under George Bush Jr. have reneged on agreements they made with two different Trial Attorney Teams willing to take up the fight with Big Tobacco at their own expense. When Big Tobacco lost. and the BIG money was awarded, both States began to welsh out on their agreements with the lawyers who won the cases for each respective State.

The bottom line is the Lawyers took on the cases with the understanding that they would bear the cost of all litigation in return for a percentage of the award if they won. That translates into roughly a couple of million per case was spent before the awards were made by the juries. So, the Lawyers invested their own heavy money to try the cases and won!

Now, one can only wonder if the jelly backs in both governor's offices would have come forward and said to the lawyers if they had lost. "We'll reimburse a large percentage of the monies spent to bring these cases to trial." I'm willing to bet neither the Bush nor the Chiles administration would've been so gallant. Once again, the crumball politicians set a fine, upstanding

example for our young people. "You don't have to keep your word, back out and screw over those who deliver positive results and keep their word."

Chiles can't run this year for re-election but another of the "Bush Clan" is running here in Florida. presumably an old buddy of Keaton's (remember that name?) I'll NOT vote for him. I'll not even consider "Jeb Bush" a viable candidate. Not after the "Bushwhacking" the Nation withstood under Daddy, George Bush Sr. (Can You say; Panama's Noriega and mass murder, Grenada, Iran-Contra, CIA Crack Coke in CA.?? ((George Bush Sr. ran the CIA at one time!))) and now Texas, under his Brother George. Sorry, I've seen far too many "Bushwhackings" to feel comfy with yet another Bush running Florida as governor. "Jeb Bush. Go back to Texas"...

And we all wonder why the crime rate in schools across the nation are on the rise..

This past week, the sealed documents sent to Judge Jackson by Lawrence Lessig were unsealed and disclosed by an Appeals Court in Washington DC. Would you believe, that "True To Form" the "Unbiased" Yale "Perfesser" had already told Judge Penfield Jackson that he felt (in so many words) that Microsoft had overstepped its bounds and should be decided against. This is unbiased??? After all, Lessig has had nothing to do since being removed from the case temporarily. These comments were part of his (Lessig's) original statements to Jackson. Both Jackson and Lessig should be permanently removed from having anything to do with this case. Besides, it's a known fact Lessig uses a MAC and not a Windows Machine and has on several occasions vehemently expressed his dislike of Microsoft and everything they represent. Nothing fair and unbiased here!

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STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB, FTP and NewsGroup Sites, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailling list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. You'll be pleased to know you are able to download STReport directly from our very own FTP SERVER or WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR AutoMailer list which allows a choice of either ASCII or Graphics Rich HTML.

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via E-Mail w/attachment to:

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rmariano@streport.com

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Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

## Antitrust Enforcer Says No Decision On Microsoft

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Justice Department's top antitrust enforcer said his agency had not yet decided how to proceed against Microsoft. Assistant Attorney General Joel Klein said the agency was still gathering facts in its wide-ranging investigation of the Microsoft.

"We have made no determination what, if any, action we will take and no determination if we were to take action as to what remedy," Klein told reporters after a speech to an investor conference in Washington sponsored by Legg Mason Wood Walker. Asked about a report in the Wall Street Journal that the department was unlikely to block the release of Microsoft's Windows 98 product, Klein said, "From our point of view, that story was way ahead of where we are."

The Justice Department took Microsoft to court last year charging that the world's leading software company was using its dominant position in computer operating systems to break into the market for Internet browsers in violation of a 1995 consent decree. Under a preliminary ruling in that proceeding, Microsoft was required to offer

personal computer manufacturers versions of its Windows 95 software with and without its Internet Explorer browser.

At the same time, the Justice Department has opened a broad investigation into a host of Microsoft business practices that may violate U.S. antitrust laws. The company intends to fully integrate its Internet Explorer product into Windows 98, expected to be released in May or June. Those plans could be put at risk if the Justice Department sought to force Microsoft to offer a version of Windows 98 without the browser.

The Journal, citing unnamed people close to the case, reported that the department "probably won't" stop Microsoft from releasing a version of Windows 98 that includes the browser. The newspaper said the department was considering requiring Microsoft to release two versions of Windows 98, one with the browser and one without. Microsoft has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and has appealed the preliminary injunction that required it to offer a version of Windows 95 without a browser included. Microsoft has steadily gained ground in the so-called browser wars, capturing significant market share in the last year from Netscape Communications. But the company has recently backed away from some of its most aggressive tactics by removing restrictive clauses in contracts with Internet service providers that want to offer Microsoft's browser product.

#### U.S. Expands Microsoft investigation

The U.S. Justice Department has expanded its antitrust probe of Microsoft Corp. to include issues related to Sun Microsystems Inc.'s Java software, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday in its electronic edition. The Journal said Sun confirmed the company had received a civil subpoena regarding Microsoft from the Justice Department. Sun also has received separate subpoenas from several states also investigating the software giant.

The move expands the government's probe beyond Microsoft's practices in the web-browser market, the paper said. Sun's Java software is seen as a potential competitor to the Microsoft Windows operating system, and Sun's chief executive Scott McNealy is an ardent Microsoft critic. Sun has filed a civil suit against Microsoft alleging violations of its licence to use Java, the Journal said.

#### Microsoft Ramps Up Washington Lobbying

Microsoft Corp. dramatically ramped up efforts to influence the federal government in the past year as it became enmeshed in a fierce legal battle with antitrust regulators, newly disclosed reports to the government show. Microsoft spent \$1.2 million trying to influence Congress and the Clinton administration in the second half of 1997 alone, nearly double the \$660,000 the software giant spent during the first six months of the year.

Microsoft's total spending on lobbying efforts in Washington last year was \$1.9 million, up 67% from 1996.

Microsoft's Gates Sees Windows 98 Mid-year  
SYDNEY - Microsoft chief executive Bill Gates said today that he expected the Seattle-based software giant would launch its Windows 98 computer operating system around the middle of the year. "This year we will be launching Windows 98...midway through the year," Gates told reporters in Sydney. The U.S. Department of Justice is in court proceedings against Microsoft, charging the leading software developer violated a 1995 consent decree aimed at increasing competition in the industry. At one point the Justice Department asked to be able to review new versions of Windows, saying Microsoft was in contempt of a judge's order to offer Windows 95 to computer makers without bundling in its Web browsing software. That request was dropped when Microsoft and the Justice Department came to an agreement. Gates said Microsoft was in the final stages of beta testing for Windows 98 and its latest NT version. He said results in recent weeks had been encouraging and Microsoft was on target to launch the product in the middle of the year. "We are getting quite confident we will be able to do that," he said. Gates said there was no prospect that legal action taken by the Justice Department would affect the product launch.

Fujitsu Makes Life Tougher for U.S. Disk Makers  
PALO ALTO, Calif. - Fujitsu, long a has-been in the computer disk drive business, has been causing some real headaches lately for its rivals. By all accounts, Fujitsu Computer Products of America, the disk drive unit of the Japanese computer giant, has made a remarkable recovery in the past two years. It has been stealing business from competitors like Seagate Technology and Quantum and forcing disk drive prices down.

The company has doubled unit shipments and doubled its market share in each of the past two years. It is now the world's fifth-biggest disk drive supplier. It also has managed to introduce bigger, faster and cheaper drives, winning business from key computer makers like Compaq Computer, Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems. While the rest of the disk drive industry is reeling from huge losses and massive price cuts, Fujitsu's disk drive operation will double its revenue in 1998 to over \$2 billion, said Larry Sanders, chief executive of the disk drive unit.

"December of 1997 was the biggest month in revenue, unit shipments and profits in the history of this company," Sanders said in a recent interview. Fujitsu's biggest month was the same period when rivals Seagate and Quantum were warning investors that they would not meet Wall Street's earnings expectations because of a huge worldwide disk drive glut. A newly competitive Fujitsu was part of the

reason, analysts said. "They are definitely in an aggressive growth mode," said James Porter, principle of market researcher Disk/Trend Inc. in Los Altos, Calif. "They've gained market share from the high end to the low end."

Fujitsu, based in Tokyo, is the world's second-biggest computer maker after International Business Machines. In the early 1980s, it was a powerhouse in disk drives, the main storage devices in most computers. But in the early 1990s, it stumbled badly because of poor marketing and slow product development. It could not develop bigger and faster drives as quickly as its American rivals were and lost business to rivals who could keep up with the rapid product cycles of the PC industry.

Enter Sanders, a 25-year veteran of the computer peripherals business, with stints at Connor Peripherals and IBM. In 1995, he took over Fujitsu Computer Products of America, based in San Jose, Calif. Sanders said that when he started, Fujitsu was focusing all its energy on quality and technology, but wasn't paying enough attention to reacting quickly to market demand. "The problem was, they measured everything in days and weeks," Sanders said. "But our industry measures things in hours. If Compaq has a problem they don't say get back to me in a couple of days. They say get back to me in a couple of hours."

So Fujitsu brought more of its sales and marketing efforts from Japan to San Jose, closer to U.S. PC makers. Fujitsu also is doing more of its product design in the U.S. to keep breast of customers' needs. Sanders said he now has 20 engineers working for him here, up from just three 18 months ago. Meanwhile, Fujitsu makes most of its drives in Asian countries like the Philippines. So Fujitsu's manufacturing costs are dropping as Asian currencies collapse.

The changes seem to be paying off. Sanders said he expects Fujitsu to become a second source of disk drives for EMC, a computer company that currently gets all of its drives from Seagate. He also expects bigger orders for Fujitsu's high-end drives at Compaq and Sun, other big Seagate accounts. "So far, Sanders seems to be doing a very good job," said Paul Fox, analyst at investment bank NationsBanc Montgomery Securities. "It's a combination of everything -- quality, manufacturing, yields, costs, time to market with product."

Still, Fujitsu would not be immune if worldwide computer sales drop. Excess inventory at companies like Compaq could slow component purchases, hampering Fujitsu's growth, analysts said. Plus, the glut of disk drives is not expected to shrink until the second half of 1998. To make profit in the business this year, disk drive makers have to concentrate on higher-margin server and laptop drives. Seagate and IBM both are stepping up development in those areas.

Yahoo!, MCI Offer New Internet Service  
Internet search engine Yahoo! Inc. expanded its online domain with the launch of an Internet service that will offer customers direct access to the Internet. The new service is a joint venture of Yahoo! and MCI Communications Corp., called "Yahoo! Online powered by MCI Internet." While Yahoo's Web site is already one of the most popular destinations on the Internet, online users previously had to use another Internet service provider, such as America Online to get there. Now they will be able to make their initial connection to the Internet through the Yahoo service. The companies are charging \$14.95 per month for unlimited local access, which will go up to \$19.95 after three months for all customers who are not MCI long-distance customers.

New Internet Address Word Codes Spell Trouble  
LOS ANGELES - A new Internet product designed to simplify address codes backfired on its launch day with users landing on a pornography site when they punched in "Bambi" for material on the lovable Disney character. A start-up Silicon Valley company marketing the product said the reason for the malfunction was that the new system was not yet fully deployed and users needed to download software from its Web site first.

When Keith Teare, president of central of Palo Alto, announced the product to Reuters on Wednesday, he said it would do away with the multiple dots and slashes that make many Internet addresses hard to get right, and replace them with Web site addresses that even a child can remember. He said that if a user wanted Disney's Bambi page, they could type in one word "Bambi" instead of having to type a long, complicated series of words. Disney's Jungle Book site, for example, is [www.disney.com/DisneyVideos/masterpieces/shelves/theJungleBook/index.html](http://www.disney.com/DisneyVideos/masterpieces/shelves/theJungleBook/index.html) The short-cut failed miserably and the result was a torrent of complaints from users who typed in the word and wound up on a porn site with whips and chains instead of the doe-eyed creature.

"I tried just entering Bambi. Ooooooops!," said one user, while another complained, "THIS AIN'T DISNEY BOYS!" "I was shocked to see a pornographic web page pop up instead of the Walt Disney Web page for Bambi as you stated in your article," one irate user complained to Reuters. The user added: "Given that you mention in your lead that these new addresses are something even a child can remember, I think the implications are not what you intended. I'd hate to see kids trying this out and being exposed to this filth."

Teare said the system will work if users first downloaded the software from his Web site -- [www.realnames.com](http://www.realnames.com), which alas was not working at all on Thursday due to technical problems. He added that he hopes to eventually make it available through all the major Internet browsers. "I think I



might not use the Bambi example anymore," he said. Teare added that he was surprised that computers made the jump to a porn site with an incomplete address.

Centraal says it has signed 150 customers, like Walt Disney, and gives them the right to use the simplified address in print and media advertising. The hope is that the new addresses will bring more people to Web sites that currently have long, unintelligible addresses. Teare said the system was designed to make the Internet more consumer-friendly, by replacing cumbersome addresses with easy-to-remember brand names. One of the company's slogans is: "No more www.dots/slashes/more slashes." It said its customers include Amazon.com, Federal Express, and Volkswagen.

Internet Addresses Spark EU-U.S. Custody fight  
BRUSSELS - A U.S. proposal to reform the system for allocating Internet addresses has caused a transatlantic debate over who should guide the global computer network into the 21st century. The European Commission, mounting a custody battle of sorts, has accused the United States of not doing enough to involve other countries in its plans. But opinion is also divided in the country that gave birth to the Internet over how to regulate cyberspace now that it sprawls the globe.

The immediate conflict involves the system of numbers and letters that allows users to send electronic mail or call up World Wide Web sites by typing in the right address. The U.S. government manages core parts of the system, reflecting the Net's origins as a U.S. defense intelligence tool. But in a "green paper" published last month, the Commerce Department laid out a plan for handing over to the private sector -- prompting a reproach from the European Union executive body.

"The...proposals appear not to recognize the need to implement an international approach," the Commission said in a draft reply that it has asked the 15 EU countries to adopt. The main dispute involves who should register and administer "generic top-level domains" -- the popular Internet addresses that end in suffixes such as .com, .org and .net. Those domains -- for commercial users, non-profit bodies and network service providers -- are now registered solely by Network Solutions (NSI), a U.S. company under contract to the U. S. National Science Foundation.

Washington's plan, spearheaded by Internet policy guru Ira Magaziner, would break NSI's monopoly and respond to the exploding demand for addresses by adding five new top-level domains, each with a new registry to manage the database. Companies would then compete, for profit, to register new Internet addresses with NSI and the new registries. The plan would also set up a U.S.-based non-profit corporation to manage the underlying numerical addresses that computers use to locate Internet sites when a user types in a domain name.

The U.S. initiative has thrown a wrench into a competing plan drawn up by a global coalition of companies and groups that has set up a Council of Registrars (CORE) in Geneva and had hoped to start registering new Internet addresses this month. That coalition, which has more than 200 signatories ranging from France Telecom to Digital Equipment Corporation, adopted a scheme last year to add seven new top-level domains, with the databases managed by CORE.

It would allow new addresses to end in .shop, .firm, .web, .arts, .rec, .info and .nom. CORE has signed up 88 registrars in 23 countries, including 35 in the EU, who have already accepted thousands of applications for Internet addresses. "All the software and hardware were created to handle all these registrations," said Siegfried Langenbach, a German member of the CORE executive committee. "A good many registrars were taking pre-registrations -- customers were calling them, saying we would like to have this name."

The U.S. paper stopped the effort in its tracks, leading some CORE backers to feel betrayed. "We were encouraged by Magaziner and his services to go ahead," said Alan McCluskey, coordinator of the CORE secretariat. "It was only at the last minute, when they were preparing the green paper, that we started to realize they had other ideas in their heads."

A U.S. official responded that the Clinton administration had always been ambivalent about the CORE proposal, although the green paper had built on its work. He said the Americans wanted a system that relied less on international bodies, citing CORE's close links to the U.N.'s International Telecommunications Union. "We want to see an Internet led by the private sector, self-regulatory and in terms of management structure a lean, mean machine," he said. The move has heightened fears in Europe that the United States wants to maintain a kind of hegemony over the Internet.

The Commission complained that the plan could consolidate U.S. jurisdiction over trademark conflicts involving Internet addresses, ignoring dispute resolution procedures set up by the World Intellectual Property Organization. CORE officials criticized the effort for being too "U.S.-centric" and failing to fully break down NSI's monopoly. The U.S. Internet community is also divided over which way to go. CORE's approach has been endorsed by various "godfathers" of U.S. cyberspace, including Jon Postel, head of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, which runs cyberspace's numerical address system.

But some industry groups have attacked it for attempting to hijack the address system and shift it overseas, away from the jurisdiction of U.S. law and U.S. courts. Andrew Sernovitz, president of the Association for Interactive Media, said in a statement last summer that CORE had been set up by

"self-appointed autocrats" who favored a "world government over the Internet." AIM represents more than 300 new media companies and big Internet users.

Sernovitz told Reuters the green paper was "one of the most fair, straightforward documents I've ever seen come out of a government." The U.S. official stressed that the paper was only a draft and likely to be changed on the basis of public comments, which are due by March 23.

#### New Company Sendmail To Attack Internet Spam

SAN FRANCISCO - Sendmail has released a new set of software tools to combat junk mail -- or spam -- on the Internet, the new startup company said. The privately held company based in Emeryville, Calif., was formed to commercialize the software developed by Eric Allman, a UNIX programmer who wrote the first version of the software 17 years ago while working at the University of California at Berkeley. Sendmail will continue Allman's practice of giving the software away for free over the Internet, but at the same time it will distribute commercial products for Internet service providers and corporate customers.

"The Internet's infrastructure has to remain free for the good of the Net," Allman, who is the company's chief technology officer, said in a statement. Sendmail, which counts among its first investors Sun Microsystems co-founders Bill Joy and Andy Bechtolsheim, launched Sendmail 8.9 at a trade show in Baltimore. The newest version of Sendmail addresses one of the biggest problems on the Internet, junk mail, with a software tool set that it calls the most "most capable weapon available against the spread of spam."

Allman created the initial version of Sendmail as a program to route messages between the UC Berkeley computer systems and the ARPAnet, one of the first government networks that preceded the Internet. Sendmail estimates that more than one million copies of its "freeware" have been installed, representing more than 75 percent of all Internet servers dedicated to hosting electronic mail. Earlier versions of Sendmail included features to attack spam, but a Sendmail spokesman said that the software's spam blocking features were difficult to configure for non-computer experts. "You had to be a computer guru to configure it," he said. Sendmail said it will begin to offer a commercial version this summer, for an estimated price of about \$1,000 per server. Sendmail said it expects to reach about \$40 million in annual sales within three years from server software sales, services, training and consulting revenues. To date, Sendmail has raised about \$1.25 million in funding from its investors, including Joy and Bechtolsheim. The company declined to name its other investors at this time.

#### Compaq To Offer Free Monitors With PCs

NEW YORK - Compaq Computer plans to offer free monitors and other accessories with its desktop

personal computers for businesses, in an effort to reduce inventory at its distributors, the Wall Street Journal said today. Compaq said it will give away 15-inch monitors, valued at about \$300 each, with its commercial desktop PCs and extend the memory promotion, which had been limited to high-end servers, to other units, the paper reported, citing distributors and others close to Compaq. Compaq's consumer business isn't suffering an inventory backup and won't be affected by the new promotions, the paper said.

**Motorola-IBM Venture Offers New PowerPC Chip**  
AUSTIN, Texas - Motorola and IBM today said they introduced a faster version of its high performance PowerPC 750 microprocessor. The new version of the PowerPC 750 chip, capable of running at 300 megahertz, will be priced at \$495 per chip in quantities of 1,000, Motorola said in a statement. An IBM spokesman said they will also offer the chip at \$495 per device.

The PowerPC 750 was originally unveiled jointly by the two companies in August 1997 at speeds up to 266 megahertz, a standard measure of computer processing speed. PowerPC microprocessors were jointly developed by Apple Computer, IBM and Motorola. Apple and vendors that develop for the Mac OS, or operating system, remain the major consumers of PowerPC chips. Apple Computer has used the chips in its G3 line of Power Macintosh and PowerBook systems. Motorola said embedded systems design companies also are using PowerPC 750 microprocessors for applications such as networking infrastructure, industrial and medical imaging and array processing.

**Netscape To Expand Internet Service**  
NEW YORK - Netscape Communications is planning to expand its on-line service into a major Internet gateway, the Wall Street Journal reported today in its electronic edition. The move to shift its recently launched Netcenter site to a broader "portal" site -- a combination of content, communications and community features plus Internet navigation tools -- could require Netscape to both compete and cooperate with other Internet companies, the paper said.

It will bring Netscape into more direct competition with many major Internet players, including Yahoo!, Excite, America Online and a similar new site that will soon be launched by Microsoft called Start, the Journal said. But how Netscape configures such a site might also include a single partnership or series of partnerships with some of those same competitors, the paper said.

The Mountain View, Calif., Internet software company is now in discussions with Yahoo, Excite, AOL, as well as search-engine companies such as Infoseek and Lycos, about a wide range of options that include everything from simply selling them premium placement on the popular site to large-scale programming deals, the Journal said.

#### Worldnet Won't Enforce Limits

NEW YORK, March 13 - Worldnet, the Internet service provider owned by AT&T, says it will not resort to session timers as a way of reducing problems which occur with heavy network use. Worldnet spokesman Mike Miller told Reuters the company does not consider terminating online sessions after a fixed period of time as a worthwhile method for reducing heavy traffic during peak hours. Miller says the company sampled customer's feedback through news groups and decided the session limits is not a solution for managing heavy usage. AT&T announced on Tuesday that Worldnet was testing the idea of imposing time limits, including automatic logoffs, for the small percentage of subscribers who remain online after a fixed amount of time, such as three hours or more.

#### Gore Seeks to Put Earth Image on Internet

Vice President Al Gore proposed Friday the U.S. government design and operate a satellite to make a live image of the Earth available on the Internet around the clock. "This new satellite, called Triana, will allow people around the globe to gaze at our planet as it travels in its orbit around the Sun for the first time in history," Gore said. He asked NASA to launch a new micro satellite offering live images of the Earth depicting changing cloud patterns, developing hurricanes and even large fires in oil fields or forests. He said the image of the full Earth would awaken a new generation to the environment and educate millions of children around the globe.

#### Australia Turns to Internet to Prevent Suicide

Australia launched an Internet site Wednesday to combat the country's shocking youth suicide rate - one of the world's worst. Family Services Minister Warwick Smith unveiled what could be the world's first Internet site to help potential suicides, their families, friends and health workers. Reach Out! is found on <http://reachout.asn.au>. Smith said the government wanted to turn a technology that sometimes isolated people into one which reached out and offered help, provided information and told young people and their families where to find assistance. An estimated 400 Australians aged between 15 and 24 kill themselves each year.

#### AOL's Steve Case Named to the Big Board's Board

In a sign cyberspace has truly arrived in America's business establishment, America Online Inc.'s Steve Case has been nominated to the board of the New York Stock Exchange. The 39-year-old CEO and co-founder of America Online joins such business luminaries as British Airways Chairman Sir Colin Marshall, Ford Motor Chairman Alex Trotman and the head of Time Warner, Gerald Levin, who also were nominated to two-year terms Friday. The Big Board's outside directorship is made up of a dozen of America's top corporate leaders. America Online's stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, bucking a trend by many high-tech giants which

remain loyal to the Nasdaq market.

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A T T E N T I O N \*\* A T T E N T I O N \*\* A T T E N T I O N

STReport's  
Editor's Choice

Awarded for Excellence in Programming, Support and Innovation  
Spring 1998 - Blue Ribbon Awards

EDUPAGE STR Focus  
Keeping the users  
informed

Edupage  
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CONGRESS EYES AID  
FOR DISTANCE  
LEARNING STUDENTS  
Congress is  
beginning work on  
extending the Higher  
Education Act, and  
is considering  
easing a provision  
in the current law  
that prohibits  
colleges from  
receiving federal  
aid if they offer  
more than 50% of  
their courses via  
distance education.  
The rule, which  
initially was

introduced to  
prevent fraud  
following a 1992  
scandal involving  
several  
correspondence  
schools, now poses  
problems for  
"virtual"  
universities and  
other participants  
in the distance  
learning boom. The  
Clinton  
Administration has  
proposed eliminating  
the "50% rule" and  
has asked  
accrediting agencies  
to develop standards  
for distance  
learning programs.  
At the same time,  
the Department of  
Education has urged  
officials to limit  
any changes to  
include only  
programs at two-year  
and four-year  
colleges that offer  
accredited  
associate,  
bachelor's or  
graduate degrees.  
"The accrediting  
agencies are  
perfectly capable of  
addressing those  
standards. We don't  
want the department  
regulating more than  
is absolutely  
necessary," says a  
senior VP at the  
American Council on  
Education.

(Chronicle of Higher  
Education 13 Mar 98)

#### NETSCAPE PLANS TO BOOST INTERNET SERVICE

Netscape  
Communications is  
planning to expand  
its Netcenter site  
into a major  
Internet gateway,  
positioning it in  
direct competition



with Yahoo!, Excite, America Online and Microsoft. The redesigned site will include more community features such as discussion groups, and Netscape is looking at ways to offer free e-mail service to users. The move signals the consolidation of Web traffic around a few major "hubs," which serve as the initial log-on point for Web users. Netscape already ranks No. 2 in visitors, with 23.1 million users in February, second only to Yahoo!. (Wall Street Journal 13 Mar 98)

#### REALNETWORKS BUYS VIVO SOFTWARE

RealNetworks, the dominant supplier of online multimedia streaming software, has acquired Vivo Software for \$17 million in a stock swap deal. The merger will boost RealNetwork's market share to close to 90%, according to its estimates. The combined companies will now work on integrating Vivo's VivoActive 2.0 technology into RealNetwork's software, using Microsoft's open Active Streaming Format. Microsoft owns a 10% stake in RealNetworks.

(Broadcasting & Cable 2 Mar 98)

#### AMAZON.COM WANTS TO SEND YOU TO LAW SCHOOL

Online bookseller Amazon.com has an unusual promotion

going on, in an effort to publicize John Grisham's latest thriller, "The Street Lawyer." The winner of the contest can choose between \$25,000 cash or the first year of law school tuition paid in full. Contestants must register at the [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) site, and, as always, should read the fine print first. Entries must be submitted by March 16.

(Information Week 9  
Mar 98)

#### SOFTWARE PIRACY

A Decima Research survey released by the Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft found that one in five Canadians pirates software, although fewer than 1% do so frequently. Only 20% of respondents said they would report someone for illegally copying software, and almost half view stealing a chocolate bar as worse than pirating software. The CAAST estimates piracy costs between \$357- and \$500-million annually, but courts have been unwilling to award damages unless software makers can prove exactly how much they lost, which is difficult to do since detailed records are rare at illegal software shops. Changes to the Copyright Act easing that burden of proof are expected to be

proclaimed by the  
end of April,  
providing tougher  
civil penalties of  
up to \$20,000 for  
each program  
illegally copied.  
(Toronto Globe &  
Mail 13 Mar 98)

#### MALAYSIAN CRACKDOWN

ON NET PORNOGRAPHY  
Malaysia's consumer  
affairs minister is  
calling for strict  
monitoring of  
Internet cafes to  
prevent young people  
"from poisoning  
their minds with  
filth" and leading  
them into crime and  
"immoral acts." In  
some places in the  
country, cybercafe  
owners will be  
required to give  
authorities \$5,000  
deposits that will  
be forfeited if the  
cafes are found to  
allow pornography on  
their screens. (AP  
14 Mar 98)

#### WALKING TIGHTROPE BETWEEN CENSORSHIP AND FREE SPEECH

The Internet has  
given higher  
education  
institutions  
something new to  
worry about. Peter  
Burke, an attorney  
in the technology  
practice group of  
the Atlanta &  
Washington law firm  
Powell-Goldstein,  
says: "Universities  
are concerned about  
libel and slander.  
By operating e-mail  
systems, does the  
university become  
responsible for what  
gets posted there?"  
Burke says that  
universities and  
colleges are walking  
the tightrope

between censorship  
and free speech,  
because what some  
may say is  
offensive, others  
argue is free  
speech. "Do we have  
people deciding what  
ideas are good or  
bad? 'Don't say  
that, it might  
offend somebody?  
We'd rather you  
speak good ideas so  
everyone is happy?'"  
(AP 14 Mar 98)

U.S. DOE SAYS  
COOKIES AREN'T BAD  
FOR YOU

The U.S. Department  
of Energy's Computer  
Incident Advisory  
Capability has  
issued an  
information bulletin  
stating that privacy  
advocates' fears  
over the use of  
cookies -- a popular  
technique for  
tracking Web site  
visitors - are  
unfounded. The  
claims that Web  
cookies may be used  
to gather  
information on  
"passwords, credit  
card numbers, and a  
list of the software  
on your computer" is  
not even "close to  
the truth,"  
according to the  
bulletin. In fact,  
information that is  
gathered via cookies  
-- usually a user's  
numerical Internet  
address, browser  
type and operating  
system -- can also  
be recorded in a Web  
server's log files.  
"Cookies just make  
it easier. [A  
server] cannot find  
out your name or e-  
mail address, or  
anything about your

computer using  
cookies," says the  
bulletin. (TechWeb  
16 Mar 98)

#### NEW TOOL TO STOP JUNK MAIL

A new version  
Sendmail, the  
software used on  
about 75% of the  
message routing  
computers on the  
Internet, will offer  
a number of features  
to block "spamming"  
(the transmission of  
massive quantities  
of unsolicited  
commercial  
messages), including  
the ability to  
reject mail from  
known spam addresses  
and to force  
spammers to reveal  
their true Internet  
addresses. Eric  
Allman, who wrote  
the Sendmail program  
while working as a  
programmer at the  
University of  
California at  
Berkeley, is also  
creating a company  
(Sendmail Inc.) to  
sell software and  
support services to  
businesses, while  
continuing to  
develop new features  
for the free version  
of the software.  
(New York Times 17  
Mar 98)

#### NSF TO STOP FUNDING TRUST FOR INTERNET DEVELOPMENT

The company that  
contracts with the  
National Science  
Foundation to manage  
the Internet address  
registration process  
will no longer be  
putting a portion  
(\$15) of the fees it  
collects into a  
trust fund for  
network

improvements.  
Network Solutions  
says it plans  
instead to reduce  
the fee it charges  
from \$50 to \$35,  
because the Internet  
Intellectual  
Infrastructure Fund,  
which now stands at  
\$45.5 million, has  
"an appropriate  
amount of money,"  
according to an NSF  
spokeswoman. The  
trust fund is the  
center of a lawsuit  
filed by a group of  
companies protesting  
the \$50 fee, which  
they say is a tax  
that NSF lacks the  
authority to levy.  
Twenty-three million  
dollars of the fund,  
which is now frozen  
until the case is  
adjudicated, was to  
have been  
distributed to  
colleges and  
universities as part  
of the  
Administration's  
Next Generation  
Internet plan.  
(Academe Today 17  
Mar 98)

ISPs SAY INTERNET  
DEMAND EXCEEDS  
TECHNOLOGY

Internet service  
providers and  
equipment vendors  
are warning that  
Internet bandwidth  
demands are growing  
much faster than the  
capacity of Internet  
backbones. For  
instance UUNet  
Technologies reports  
that Internet  
traffic used to  
double every year,  
but now its doubling  
every three to six  
months: "We have to  
radically alter our  
backbone very, very

regularly," says a UUNet VP. "We and everybody else are going to have a difficult time keeping up with bandwidth demand." ISPs complain that new video applications are straining current technology, and that it's difficult to build up the backbone without knowing in advance which Internet applications are going to prove most popular: "We're being asked to build bandwidth for the future without really knowing what the traffic will be," says the chairman of Netcom On-Line Communications Services. And while all agree that eventually usage-based pricing will prevail, some are suggesting that the industry may also move to a distance-sensitive pricing scheme, similar to that used by long-distance telephone providers.

(Information Week 16  
Mar 98)

COMPAQ SLASHES  
INVENTORIES WITH  
FREE MONITOR OFFER  
Compaq Computer will offer free 15-inch monitors, valued at about \$300 apiece, with its commercial desktop PCs in an effort to reduce inventory at its distributor warehouses. Last month, it reduced prices sharply across its

commercial line, cut the price of monitors in half, and offered to double the installed memory of some products. The company is hoping to streamline its manufacturing and distribution processes to make it more competitive with direct sellers like Gateway 2000 and Dell. The company's consumer business, which is not suffering from inventory overload, won't be included in the new promotions. (Wall Street Journal 16 Mar 98)

YAHOO! AND MCI TO COMPETE AGAINST AOL  
Targeting the same kind of subscribers who are members of America Online, a new dialup online service created jointly by Yahoo! and MCI will offer Internet access plus premium content and all the features available from Yahoo!. The standard rate for MCI customers will be \$14.95 a month for unlimited use, with \$19.95 being the rate for non-MCI customers. Industry analyst Patrick Keane says he can see the new venture "being a pretty formidable competitor" but that cyberspace is "littered with the bodies of those who have tried to take on AOL." (USA Today 16 Mar 98)

STUDY SAYS NCs ARE REPLACING PCs IN



## WORKPLACE

A study by International Data Corp. indicates that about 73% of companies buying network computers say they are replacing PCs, rather than terminals. Eighty percent cited the lower cost of NCs in their decision. About 40% of the respondents indicated they own more than 100 Ncs, with IBM the most recognized brand name, followed by Sun Microsystems and Hewlett-Packard. (Investor's Business Daily 17 Mar 98)

## CUSTOMERS IGNORED IN HIGH-TECH DECISIONS

The Deloitte Touche consulting firm says that high-technology manufacturers suffer from "customer phobia" when it comes to developing strategies to market and sell their products. A study by the company concludes that customer satisfaction with manufactured high-tech goods has steadily declined over the past five years despite a steady increase in product quantity, with the industry remaining largely technology-centered along the lines of a "build it and hope they will come" while keeping customers at a safe distance. (Ottawa Citizen 17 Mar 98)

## CROSSING THAT BRIDGE TO THE YEAR 2000

#### PROBLEM

With \$4.7 billion budgeted this year and next for solving the "Year 2000" problem (when many computers will be unable to distinguish in which century they are crunching numbers), the current progress report from federal agencies is: only 35% of computer software systems critical for agencies to perform their missions have been checked and fixed, with 3,500 critical systems remaining in need of attention. In testimony before two subcommittees of Congress, an official of the General Accounting Office summed up the situation by saying: "It is unlikely that agencies can complete this vast amount of work in time." No one knows the full scope of the problem, because it is not possible to identify which systems are in fact critical: a seemingly minor system will be critical if major systems will not run without it. (New York Times 19 Mar 98)

#### STUDENTS ARE

SLOWPOKES ON USING HIGH-SPEED NETWORKS  
After several years of pressuring colleges to install high-speed networks in dormitories, it turns out that students aren't racing for the

chance to log on at lightning speed. The information comes from an online discussion sponsored by CAUSE, where one participant complained about "how few students elect to participate in residence-hall networking." Some attempted to explain the apparent contradiction, noting that in some cases, students must pay "subscription" fees to hook up to networks. Others say they hope the low usage is a "short-term phenomenon" and that once students get online at these new speeds, they'll be hooked. But as one participant put it, you want a stronger argument than that when you're asking your college president to pay for major networking projects. (Chronicle of Higher Education 20 Mar 98)

DISTINCTION FUZZY  
BETWEEN CYBER WORLD  
& WALK-AROUND WORLD  
In a move to broaden its product line and offer customers software to handle both conventional and online commercial transactions, CyberCash Inc. of Reston, Virginia, whose software allows merchants to accept payments over the Internet, is buying Oakland, California-based Icoverify Inc., whose software is used to process credit card transactions.

CyberCash's chief executive explains:  
"The sharp distinctions between the Internet world we live in and the walk-around world that Icoverify lives in -- those distinctions are starting to get real fuzzy." (Washington Post 19 Mar 98)

FEDS PROSECUTE  
TEENAGER FOR  
COMPUTER CRIME

A Massachusetts teenage computer vandal found guilty of disrupting phone service to about 600 homes and a small airport's control tower now faces two years of probation, forfeiture of his computer, 250 hours of community service, and \$5,000 in restitution. The government hopes that bringing charges against the young man will send a clear warning to others. "To the extent that juvenile hackers out there think that they somehow have a pass, think that it's fun and games, think that they're not going to be prosecuted, they're wrong." (New York Times 19 Mar 98)

AUTO SOCIETY  
ADDRESSES MOBILE  
GADGET CONCERNS

The Society of Automotive Engineers, in cooperation with the Big Three U.S. automakers and a number of federal regulators and independent researchers, is

studying the harmful effects of new automobile gadgetry, such as Global Positioning System-based navigation systems, cell phones and dashboard-mounted PCs. "The bottom line is we're very cognizant of driver overload and driver distraction," says the director of advanced engineering at GM's Delphi Automotive Systems. The SAE is drafting voluntary guidelines for the manufacture and installation of such devices in the hope of staving off federal regulation. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recently issued a 300-page report on safety problems related to cell-phone use. (Wall Street Journal 18 Mar 98)

#### PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OPENS INTERNET-ONLY BANK

Principal Financial Group, a financial and insurance firm, has opened an all-electronic Principal Bank. By July 1, customers will be able access and transfer funds between accounts, file loan applications, pay bills and view cleared checks, all on the Web. "The number of people who are using the Web is growing, and this is a way for them to micromanage their affairs," says the bank's CIO. Later on

this year, a start-up group in Houston plans to open Compubank, an all-electronic bank. More than 200 electronic-banking Web sites have opened in the past two years, according to Seattle-based Online Banking Report, and the number of households handling at least some banking duties over the Internet rose to 4 million in 1997, up from 2.5 million in '96 and only 250,000 in '94. (Investor's Business Daily 18 Mar 98)

#### MODEM ON THE DESK EARNs A PINK SLIP AT SUN

Citing users with dial-up Internet access as the No. 2 biggest security risk after internal hacking, Sun Microsystems has made it a firing offense to have a modem on the desk. Many crackers use a technique called "war dialing" in which their computer tries hundreds or even thousands of phone numbers in search of an idle modem. If that PC's owner is not using the machine, the cracker can effectively "capture" the PC, and gain access to the network it's connected to. If a senior manager at Sun discovers an infraction, that employee is "gone the same day," says one of Sun's security managers.

"Any dial-up line is  
a tremendous risk."  
(Network Week 18 Mar  
98)

VIDEO GAMERS USE  
THEIR HEADS  
Italian PC maker  
Video Computer is  
marketing a headset  
that can be used in  
place of the  
joystick in any  
video game to  
perform the commands  
that control  
movement through the  
3D space on the  
screen. To look left  
in the game, the  
player simply needs  
to slightly rotate  
his or her head in  
that direction. The  
UR Gear device,  
which uses infrared  
transmitters and  
receivers to detect  
movement and  
translate it into on-  
screen motion, was  
initially designed  
for disabled PC  
users. It will be  
available in the  
U.S. in the second  
quarter, and will  
retail for \$99.  
(Business Week 23  
Mar 98)

Linux Advocate  
Column #9 - for  
March 20th, 1998  
by Scott Dowdle -  
dowdle@icstech.com -  
[http://www.icstech.c  
om/~dowdle](http://www.icstech.com/~dowdle)  
LOGIN  
Look mom, two  
columns in a row...  
wow! Actually, the  
reason I was able to  
produce two in a row  
is because the folks  
at the Linux Weekly  
News site have  
authorized me to use  
their March 12th  
edition here. We are

still working out  
the details of  
future editions but  
I hope to be able to  
reproduce some or  
all of their weekly  
publication here in  
STR.

The Linux Weekly  
News site can be  
found at the  
following URL:  
<http://www.eklektix.com/lwn>

One REALLY BIG THING  
to note here, is  
that there is BIG  
DIFFERENCE between  
the usability of the  
ASCII and HTML  
versions of STR with  
regards to my  
representation of  
the Linux Weekly  
News publication. In  
the HTML version,  
LWN has an Internet  
link (URL) embedded  
into virtually every  
paragraph that gives  
the details on that  
item. In the ASCII  
reproduction, only  
the raw text has  
been reproduced,  
although slightly  
reformatted to meet  
the less complex  
format of the ASCII  
edition of STR. I  
considered doing  
considerable work on  
the ASCII version by  
typing all of the  
URLs from the HTML  
version after every  
ASCII paragraph but  
after getting three-  
quarters of the way  
done with this  
edition I observed  
just how much longer  
that makes the ASCII  
version of the  
column (an extra  
line for each  
URL)... and given  
all of the work it  
would take each and  
every week, it just



didn't seem worth  
it.

Ralph was asking for  
feedback on the HTML  
version of STR and I  
must say that I'm  
ALL FOR IT. While  
Adobe makes their  
Acrobat Reader for  
Linux, and there are  
at least two, free,  
alternative PDF  
readers that I use  
(gv and xpdf)... I  
always felt that  
Acrobat wasn't the  
better choice for  
STR. While there is  
a PDF browser-plugin  
and the PDF format  
can and was read  
online, it was  
certainly much, much  
larger and less  
direct than the new  
HTML based format.  
HTML makes STR so  
much more friendly  
and usable,  
especially where  
references are made  
to Internet URLs. My  
(red) hat is off to  
Ralph for making the  
decision to switch.  
I don't have much to  
add to this edition  
of Linux Advocate  
and I present the  
Linux Weekly News  
below. Enjoy!

The following may be  
found at it's  
permanent URL:  
[http://www.eklektix.  
com/lwn/980312](http://www.eklektix.com/lwn/980312)  
The Linux Weekly  
News Staff may be  
reached at the  
following email  
address:  
[lwn@eklektix.com](mailto:lwn@eklektix.com)

Linux Weekly News -  
Published March 12,  
1998  
Bringing you the  
latest news from the  
Linux World.  
Dedicated to keeping

Linux users up-to-date, with concise news for all interests.

[Leading items]  
Netscape has released their source code license in draft form. You can read the thing, in mind-numbing legal detail, on the mozilla.org web site. It looks pretty good; it's their own creation, but certainly adheres to the spirit of the GPL. Bruce Perens of Debian fame has pronounced it compliant with the Debian free software guidelines. The Netscape folks are looking for feedback, so check out the license if you're interested in these things and let them know what you think of it. According to the GIMP News, version 1.0 of the GIMP will be out around March 20. The GIMP is one of the truly cool Linux applications, even if it has been used to create some truly ugly, graphics-laden Linux sites. It's nice to see that it is finally ready for prime time. Here's one user's report on Linus Torvalds talk at the Silicon Valley Linux Users Group meeting, posted to linux-newbie. Here's a pretty little cost-comparison between NT and Linux for

setting up an office  
network for 100  
users.

How many Linux users  
are there? Red Hat  
has revised their  
white paper on the  
subject (originally  
published January  
11th). In the paper,  
they justify their  
current estimate of  
between 7-10 million  
Linux users, twice  
the estimate of a  
year ago.

A truly phenomenal  
number of software  
announcements were  
made in the last  
week ... check out  
the list below.

[Articles]

Linux in the news  
First Monday, the  
"peer reviewed  
journal on the  
Internet," has  
devoted its entire  
March issue to Linux  
and free software.  
Some of the stuff  
we've seen before  
(Cathedral and  
Bazaar, Cooking pot  
markets), but  
there's also a  
lengthy interview  
with Linus, an  
article by  
Christopher B.

Browne on "Linux and  
decentralized  
development", and  
other good stuff as  
well. Getting  
through all this  
stuff will take some  
time, but it's time  
well spent.

Ralph Nader thinks  
Dell should sell  
Linux boxes. Info-  
Policy Notes carries  
an article  
describing the  
barriers that exist  
to easy access to  
"alternative"  
operating systems,

and concludes with an open letter to Michael Dell urging that systems running Linux (and other OS's) be made available. It would be good for Linux if Dell sold pre-installed systems, but I think Ralph (and others) do a real disservice when they overlook the many vendors out there that are already selling such machines.

Infoworld ran this comment on Nader's proposal. In it, Linus says he welcomes the suggestion, but even being able to buy a PC without any operating system install would be an improvement. "For somebody like me, who really doesn't want to have Windows, I end up paying for Windows for no good reason. That's like paying taxes for something you really abhor." Is Windows forever? asks USA Today. Their answer seems to be "maybe not," and Linux is listed as one of the threats that Windows faces.

Deja News, the original WWW archiver of netnews traffic, runs Linux! This article in Internet World talks about how their operation works. Comments in ZDNet about the Merced chip. According to one person, "Linux will be the first widely used IA-64

Unix." He goes on, however, to predict that the server market will be held by "Intel-based Linux" for some time yet.

Also on ZDNet: Sun will give you 70% off Solaris if you "upgrade" from Linux or a number of other competing operating systems. Any takers? EETimes talks about a company using Linux for EDA, an acronym they never define; one assumes it means "Electronic Design Assistance" or some such. It's a favorable article, citing how much easier Linux is to manage than the alternatives.

A letter to the editor in Computer Reseller News takes them to task for an interesting mistake: their "top ten selling DOS and OS/2 programs" list had Red Hat Linux in position #3....

Some people are trying to encourage PC Plus to add Linux coverage. If you want to help, speak up nicely, either via email or via their website.

[Security]

Avi Rubin maintains a list of college and graduate level courses in security and cryptography at <http://www.cs.nyu.edu/~rubin/courses.htm>

1. He'd appreciate input and feedback to keep his site correct and up-to-date.

In the ongoing problems with the

use of a world-writeable /tmp directory, Stanislav Shalunov reported that a race condition exists when executing 'perl -e ...'. Theo de Raadt responded that he submitted a patch for this problem to perl 5.003, which unfortunately did not make it into perl 5.004\_04. He then posted his patch for 5.003 and Todd Miller's nice patch for 5.004\_04. This latest /tmp problem spawned a lot of discussion about what should be done with /tmp to prevent such security problems. Here is a posting from linux-security, which outlines some of the options discussed, as well as proposing yet another. One interesting proposal recommended that temporary files be created in an untouchable area like the proc filesystem, no symlinks allowed. Of course, this would require kernel-level changes. The use of mkstemp was also encourage, but now a bug in mkstemp has been reported. Seems Linux uses a default of 666 when BSD, Solaris, etc., are (correctly) using 600. This was still found in glibc2.0.7-pre1 but the problem report caused it to be fixed in glibc 2.0.7. The list of /tmp

problems goes on and on, ad nauseum. Here is a Red Hat problem with dhcp, (quickly fixed) another problem with updatedb and Slackware problems with netconfig and setup.

The combination of bash 2.01 and ncurses 4.1 provides an insecure environment where a privileged user's console may be taken over.

[Kernel]

Since we're a weekly publication, chances are we'll be behind a rev or two on the kernel release by the time you read this page. Up-to-the-second information can always be found at LinuxHQ.

The current development kernel release is 2.1.89. This release was slow in coming, and changed a lot of things. It seems mostly stable, but it appears that some of the swap changes made in this release have been hard on interactive performance. The disk cache is able to grow a bit more than is wise, leaving user processes out in the cold. It's being worked on...

But the big news, as of press time, is the pre-2.1.90 patch that Linus released. See his announcement. There are a couple of important things in this release: perhaps foremost

being that the  
2.1.8x networking  
problems are fixed.  
Since the  
announcement came  
out, a couple of  
notes suggest that  
the fix is not yet  
complete, but Dave  
Miller's "TCP  
warpath" seems to  
have achieved  
results. (The second  
pre-90 patch,  
released while this  
was being written,  
adds some more TCP  
improvements.) This  
means that one of  
the major roadblocks  
to 2.2 has been  
removed, and the  
serious code freeze  
(without "ice  
breakers" this time)  
is about to go into  
place.

Also relevant is a  
"minor thing" that  
Linus did: kerneld  
has been removed  
from the 2.1 kernel.  
Kerneld, for those  
who don't know, is a  
user-mode daemon  
which automatically  
loads kernel modules  
(device drivers and  
such) when they are  
needed. Some  
distributions (i.e.  
Red Hat) depend  
heavily on kerneld  
in their stock  
configurations.  
Removing it is going  
to stir some things  
up.

The replacement for  
kerneld is a thing  
called "kmod",  
written by Kirk  
Petersen and Cyrus  
Durgin. See a recent  
announcement and the  
documentation file  
from the kernel  
tree. Kmod has been  
incorporated into  
the pre-90 patch,



and is thus available without further effort. Kmod does seem like a simpler solution to the problem; it remains to be seen whether it can truly replace kernel or not.

Gregory Travis, who posted some context switching benchmarks comparing Linux and NT a while back has pursued the subject further. It seems that Linux does better in some situations, but tends to degrade much more than NT when there is a large number of runnable processes.

He ran more benchmarks, including a set with a slightly modified scheduler, and came up with these results and a detailed analysis as well. There are a couple of sources of slowness, including (1) uses a linear search on the queue of runnable processes when scheduling, and (2) some of the actually priority-setting code can be slow. Linus posted some remarks on the subject, describing the reasoning behind the scheduler design decisions.

If you have an application using the old "callout" tty devices, /dev/cua\*, it's time to begin thinking about changing it. A proposed change for 2.2 will put in a kernel warning when

a program uses one of these devices, and they may go away altogether in 2.3. The thought is that device locking should be handled in user mode, and that the kernel should be out of that business.

Anders Hammarquist has fixed the problems that prevented the new kernel NFS implementation from being compiled on glibc2 systems. A version has been made available on the Debian FTP server; a cleaner version of the fix should be made more widely available shortly.

Many networking (and other) fixes are being produced by Bill Hawes. Bill is perhaps one of the great unsung heroes of the 2.1 kernel. If you see him at Linux Expo, shake his hand and buy him a beer...

Alan Cox has put out the 2.0.34 pre3 patch as he heads towards a new release of the old stable kernel series. This patch does not yet have the fix for the mysterious lockup problem that affects some machines with a lot of network activity - that problem has not yet been nailed down.

There are also some problems with actually applying and compiling this patch; a bit of last minute flakiness

seems to have slipped in. A fixed version should come out in a few days. Meanwhile, for those who are having difficulties with the 2.0.3\* lockup problems, David Ferry has put together a patch against 2.0.29 to create an ultra-stable kernel. His announcement is [here](#).

#### [DISTRIBUTIONS]

##### Caldera

For those running into initial problems with 1.2 installs, check out the 1.2 FAQ.

If you have problems with your CDROM drive being detected during installation, remember that Caldera posts updated boot disk images on their ftp site. Check to see if your CDROM is included in one of the new ones.

##### Debian

Bruce Perens put out a comment on Debian's Trademark policy. No business can use the word Debian in their business or domain name. To save money and time, contact them first and ask about any planned use.

Barring exceptional circumstances, hamn (Debian 2.0) will freeze on March 16th. The upcoming freeze has stirred up a large amount of posts about how to find and handle orphaned packages or packages with critical bugs,

whether the non-386  
architectures will  
make the release  
date and more ...  
Testers Are Needed  
for the Hamm Freeze!  
Here's your chance  
to contribute to the  
effort, if you  
haven't yet.  
And to upgrade your  
bo system to hamm?  
The latest offer is  
dpkg-get, a deity  
method. The claim is  
that it obsoletes  
dpkg-ftp, dpkg-http,  
pkg-order, autoup.sh  
and possibly others.  
Christian Schwarz  
has created a Debian  
Resources page.  
Red Hat  
Red Hat will be at a  
couple of user group  
meetings over the  
next couple of  
weeks. Check out the  
User Group Calendar  
below.  
Lots of people are  
poking Red Hat to  
find out if Red Hat  
5.1 is on the way.  
No official answer,  
but it is definitely  
in the works, as can  
be deduced from  
several hints: the  
presence of Red Hat  
in the newsgroups  
has gone down,  
workers that will  
comment say it is  
certainly being  
thought on, and  
last, it was pointed  
out that Red Hat  
upgrades typically  
come out just before  
a major Linux event  
or expo ...  
Problems with the  
upgrade or  
installation of Red  
Hat 5.0 are still  
extremely common. No  
universal solution  
has been reported,  
but check out the

errata pages on the  
Red Hat website  
first.

S.u.S.E.

[Ports]

Tres Hofmeister  
reported to us that  
Linus Torvalds was  
presented with a  
Palm Pilot by folks  
from 3-Com, in  
recognition of the  
fact that Linux is  
being ported to the  
Pilot by the  
Linux/Microcontrolle  
r Project. If you're  
interested, he also  
forwarded a copy of  
a recent digest from  
pilot-unix, which  
describes the  
purpose of the pilot  
port of Linux.

The sparc port of  
hamm (to be Debian  
2.0) is close, but  
unlikely to make the  
freeze date (March  
16th). They will be  
working to "catch  
up" to the Intel  
release during the  
Freeze, so they  
could still make the  
release date, or  
come out soon after.

[Software

Development]

Java

Sun wants to poll  
java developers for  
information. If you  
are interested, sign  
up , give them your  
number and a time to  
call and you may get  
a chance to talk  
with someone  
directly.

Christopher Seawood  
posted a list of  
tweaks he used in  
order to get Java  
Studio 1.0 & Java  
Web Server 1.1  
working under linux.  
He was not able to  
get Java Workshop  
2.0 going, but

Joachim Bergmeyer  
was, using a patch  
from S.u.S.E.  
He also posted  
various unofficial  
jdk 1.1.5 builds  
built using a glibc  
motif 1.2.4 and  
RedHat's glibc motif  
2.1.

Embedded Systems  
In response to  
several requests,  
William R. Kerr  
posted a detailed  
discussion of the  
system-level issues  
in implementing cPCI  
Hot Swap in an  
operating system to  
linux-embedded.

Real-time  
The real-time Linux  
folks want to put  
out a release  
concurrent with the  
upcoming 2.2 stable  
kernel release.  
Here's a quick note  
describing what they  
hope to have in  
place.

[Articles]  
Stefan Waldherr has  
updated his Star  
Office page to  
include the patch  
from StarDivision  
that hopefully fixes  
the problem with  
random lockups.  
From one of your  
editors' personal  
experience: Red Hat  
distributions (and  
probably others) use  
Wietse Venema's  
version of portmap  
which can use the  
TCP wrapper control  
files  
(/etc/hosts.allow  
and /etc/hosts.deny)  
to decide who can  
map ports and who  
can't. However, "to  
avoid deadlocks"  
portmap doesn't  
reverse map IP

addresses to host  
names before  
checking. Thus, all  
entries for portmap  
must use IP  
addresses, and not  
host (or domain)  
names. Forget this,  
and you'll find  
access being denied  
when it seems it  
should be allowed...

#### [Announcements]

##### Software

##### Package Version

##### Description

a2ps 4.9.10 Any to  
PostScript filter  
ACUA 2.07 Access  
control and user  
administration  
AutoRPM 1.2  
automatically keeps  
RPMS up-to-date  
C50SIM n/a simulator  
for TMS320C50 dsp  
ccmalloc 0.2.1  
memory profiler and  
malloc debugger  
chpp 0.2 a general  
purpose preprocessor  
cvs2html n/a  
converts cvs log  
information to html  
DAS driver n/a  
driver for DAS  
1600/1400/1200 and  
compatibles  
DosLinux 54 small  
linux system for dos  
dds 1.0.0alpha  
Distributed  
Dependancy Scheduler  
Web usability  
Follow 2.02 analysis  
tool (COMMERCIAL)  
fortune 0.1 simple,  
small, fast fortune  
program  
Grail 0.4 Python web  
browser  
Help 0.9beta easy  
development of on-  
line help for Motif  
applications  
ToolKit  
for Motif  
IPChains 1.3 kernel  
firewall replacement

C++ application  
ivtools 0.6.2  
frameworks for  
spatial data  
Ktk 0.1 Qt  
look'n'feel for  
Tcl/Tk applications  
MaMa 1.0a1 "Make  
Master" graphical  
front end for 'make'  
program.  
monctrl 0.1 Philips  
monitor software  
control panel  
MPSQL 1.5.3 a SQL  
GUI client for  
PostgreSQL  
ncurses 4.2 terminal  
control library  
netcdf 3.4 System-  
independent  
scientific data  
format  
newsfetch 1.11 pull  
news via NNTP to a  
mailbox  
nosql 0.9 Unix RDBMS  
nv-dc1000 0.1beta  
Transfer images from  
the NV-DC1000  
digital camera  
Open Sound n/a  
minimal C++ wrappers  
around OSS-lib  
System C++  
Wrappers  
Pathetic n/a Yet  
Another Half-working  
Word Processor  
Write  
pavuk 0.8 WWW  
mirroring tool with  
or without GUI  
interface  
pdict 1.0 phonetic  
word lookup program  
PostgreSQL 6.3 SQL  
RDBMS  
Procinfo 13 system  
information utility  
rhubgrade 2.0  
upgrade your RedHat  
system by hand  
RITW n/a Very simple  
network monitoring  
tool  
Screader 1.5 A  
screen reader for  
Linux  
scwm 0.6 Scheme



Configurable Window  
Manager  
sigen 2 signal  
generator progs for  
soundcards  
sendfile 2.1 async  
file transfer  
service  
Socket 1.5 create  
networking-oriented  
programs  
Script  
Sound 0.02 record  
samples or tracks  
from line or cdrom  
input  
Recorder  
Spak 0.6b Arbitrary  
Packet  
Generator/Sender  
Sprocket 0.4.0  
graphical ftp-client  
Tag-types 0.0.6  
Utilities for  
manipulating tagged  
files  
taper 6.8.4 Backup  
software for tape  
drives, floppies,  
ZIP drives  
urlmon 3.0b URL  
monitoring software  
utok 1.5 Unique  
TOKens  
Uwatch 0.1a Monitor  
Logins/Logouts  
WipeOut 1.2  
integrated software  
development  
environment for C++  
and Java projects  
(COMMERCIAL)  
WWWOFFLE 2.1 World  
Wide Web Offline  
Explorer  
X-CD-Roast .96d-  
beta3 a CD-Writer-  
Package based on  
cdrecord and mkisofs  
XEmacs 20.4 an  
internationalized  
text editor  
Xenmenu 0.8b ASCII  
Menu Generator  
XFracky 2.5 a  
multithreaded Tcl/Tk  
based application  
for rendering  
fractals  
XFree86 3.3.2 The X

window system  
XNew 0.4a Account  
Request/Creation  
Tool  
xpdf 0.7a a PDF  
viewer for X  
Yalsim 2 Yet Another  
Logic/Timing  
Simulator  
(COMMERCIAL \$1)  
ypserv 1.3.0 NIS v2  
server  
ypbind-mt 1.0  
multithreaded NIS  
binding daemon

#### Projects

Albrecht Kleine is  
looking for a beta  
tester for the new  
release of the TYA  
just-in-time-  
compiler.  
The Mexico Linux  
User Group is  
sponsoring a Linux-  
IRC Project. Their  
goal is to have  
multiple channels,  
i.e., #kernel,  
#admin, #net, #gnu,  
and more, plus to be  
able to use the  
channel for teaching  
classes, conferences  
and user groups  
meetings. Perhaps  
they can join with  
linpeople, an older  
IRC network that is  
not widely known.  
The X11 Games page  
has been recently  
updated and the  
maintainer is  
looking for new  
links and games.  
A decision has been  
made to migrate SMGL-  
Tools and the Linux  
Documentation  
Project to a new  
document type  
definition, DocBook.  
The FreeDOS project  
is not new, but  
here's a reminder,  
if you're interested  
in DOS, you'll be  
interested in this

project.

#### Resources

The March issue of the Linux Gazette has been released. Linux Central's has Redhat's 5.0 distribution for \$1.95.

The book, "Samba: Integrating UNIX and Windows", has been published by Specialized Systems Consultants Inc. (SSC).

#### Events

The O'Reilly-sponsored Perl Conference has issued its Call For Papers. The conference will be held August 17th through the 20th in the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, California.

#### Web sites

Web Watcher now has its own domain, thanks to the folks at VA Research!

The Linux Questionnaire gives people a place to report their experience with Linux and see the survey results, updated hourly. Here's a page that offers help with Linux setup on Digital VP-567 & VP-500 series.

User group Calendar  
Saturday, March 21st  
Skaane Sjaelland  
Linux Users Group (SSLUG) will hold a meeting in Lund, Sweden at the University of Lund.

Other User Group  
News

Here is the  
announcement for the  
first Czech Linux  
Users' Group Meeting  
in Cikhaj. To become  
a member, check out  
this posting. (In  
Czech)

The UNIX/Linux  
Special Interest  
Group of the Dayton  
Microcomputer  
Association meets on  
the first thursday  
of every month.  
The GNU Generation  
Computer Group of  
Corpus Christi Texas  
(GGCG) now has a  
mailing list.

#### [Links]

Linux links of the  
week  
Anybody who doesn't  
have "ssh" on their  
systems should  
wander over to the  
ssh home page and  
learn about it. Ssh  
is the realization  
of some of the  
promise of  
cryptography,  
providing secure  
communications (all  
traffic is  
encrypted),  
protection against  
password sniffer  
attacks (one of the  
biggest sources of  
breakins), and  
protection against  
host spoofing  
attacks. It's easy  
to install and use,  
and you'll never use  
rlogin again.  
Red Hat users can  
get an RPM of ssh  
from the Replay  
crypto archive. This  
site is conveniently  
hosted outside of  
the U.S., so the  
nonsensical American  
crypto laws are not  
a problem. They have  
a lot of good stuff

beyond ssh as well.  
If you're one of the  
three readers of  
this page who don't  
know about  
Slashdot.org, go  
check it out now.  
It's the best source  
of up-to-the-second  
news on the net.

[Feedback]  
Feedback and  
Corrections  
Many people posted  
that they had  
registered on the  
Linux Counter quite  
a while ago and been  
given an id number  
greater than 60,000  
quite a while ago.  
No word yet from the  
maintainers of the  
site as to why their  
summary report still  
showed less than  
60,000 ...

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produced by  
Eklektix, Inc.  
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Well, what do you  
think of the Linux  
Weekly News? As  
always, feel free to  
email me with  
comments or  
suggestions about  
this column. Again,  
I'm going to attempt  
to make it a weekly  
column now,  
especially if I do  
get permission to  
reproduce LWN every  
week.

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dowdle@icstech.com

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The Kids' Computing Corner  
Computer news and software reviews  
from a parent's point of view

Familial responsibilities prevented me from completing my column for this week. I had the opportunity to take my older sons to a minor league hockey game. We watched the Chicago Wolves play the Utah Grizzlies at the Rosemont Horizon. What a blast! The hockey was played at a high skill level and there was always something going on to interest the fans. If you get the chance, check out minor league hockey.

In roller hockey news, the league changed the kids' schedule and they played a doubleheader for the season ending tournament on Wednesday. They had finished the regular season with a 6-2 record good for second place. By winning both games on Wednesday, they won the championship tournament. The games were very close, but Lissy's Polaris pulled out 3-1 and 4-3 victories. My kids really enjoyed playing the game and they have learned quite a bit about how hockey is played. The coach did a great job of involving all the kids and giving everyone opportunities to play. Jeremy and Tim are looking forward to the fall season!

On a final personal note, today (March 20) marks the sixteenth anniversary of the marriage of Frank Sereno and Denise Leonard. It is an understatement to say that I have been blessed by the partnership of this loving, sweet and beautiful person. Denise, you're the greatest!

Jason's Jive

Jason Sereno, STR Staff  
jsereno@streport.com

Interstate '76  
Nitro Pack  
Windows 95 CD-ROM  
Suggested Retail: \$39.99  
For ages 13+  
Activision, Inc.  
16101 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
tel 310.473.9200  
fax 310.479.4005  
<http://www.activision.com>



From the moment I started using the Interstate '76 Arsenal, I could tell that I was in for one funkadelic ride. It is separated into two equally far out sections. The first is the original drive n' shoot blockbuster modified with some pretty groovy 3D-enhanced graphics. They decided to name this new version the Gold Edition. The second part is the Nitro pack. This contains twenty add on missions with all new voice overs and some high-octane multiplayer levels. This arsenal is a little "Mod Squad," a little "Shaft," and a whole lot of attitude.

We will go over the Interstate '76 Gold Edition first. Instantly, you are wrapped up in the game's atmosphere. You first see a funk-filled theme worthy of any 70's crime drama. The use of the cameras and action sequences are amazing. Meanwhile the swinging soundtrack supplies you with an original, yet somehow familiar remembrance of the 70's funk. Or at least that is what I am told. I wasn't really alive then.

From there on, you meet many unique characters bent on obtaining all of the nations fuel in this alternate 70's world. A wide variety of missions bring them along as well as some very detailed missions. Everything from escorts, multiple car races, and full out holocausts are in the game. The cars and weapons are also the same from the original, but they are all graphically enhanced to improve the vigilante gameplay. Sky and ground textures have also been added and modified to help immerse yourself into this whacked out 70's world. The blend of 70's slang alone brings you back a couple of decades!

The cars themselves are also very "neato." Each one has its own flavor and one of a kind properties. Some cars handle better, accelerate faster, or top out at higher speeds. You are allowed to edit your car's configuration by removing or replacing its armor on any side. You can also change your cars' weapons to suit the individual levels' requirements. Sometimes you are not allowed to use your weapons in an episode. So by having them all you do is add weight to your vehicle and consequently slow it down.

What the Nitro Pack adds is a whole bunch more attitude. It comes with twenty single-player levels, which actually take place before the original story line begins. You can play as Jade, an expert female racer turned vigilante, her mentor Taurus, or the half-witted mechanic Skeeter. There are also thirty multiplayer levels available! Up to eight players can capture the flag, race, or battle it out in a very diverse amount of settings.

The Nitro Pack adds nine new cars and six new guns as well. It also lets you choose a different

automobile for each scenario. Cars, jeeps, ambulances, hearses, and even school buses may be used. It is definitely the next best thing possible to a sequel of the great game.

A couple of things I would like to see in another sequel however would be a built in car and/or map editor. There are a lot of cars and maps in both parts of the Arsenal, but we all know how fun it is to make your own creations. (Note to software developers: Something simple, for once, would also be greatly appreciated.)

The Interstate '76 Arsenal is definitely a great package. The original game itself was pretty spectacular. Now with the graphical enhancements, especially 3D wise, it's a real deal at \$39.99. This Nitro pack is very groovy and a nice accessory to the bundle as well. I found the Interstate '76 Arsenal very entertaining and it proved to be a very funkadelic ride indeed!

#### Jason's Tips

When altering your car's ammunition, there are basically two ways to go. Most cars in the game have at least one top, one forward, and one backward slot for guns. A turret is a great thing to use on top. It moves 360 degrees and can fire up or down. However, another possible root is to use the top slot as another forward shooting device. Then you can "link" the top and how ever many guns are used for shooting forward together. This means that when you shoot forward, all of the guns that are aimed forward will shoot at the desired target. You will find it creates a lot more damage than a single gun would.

Another thing that is fun to do is to utilize your dropping weapons. These include fire droppers, land mines, and box droppers along with others. The fire droppers are great to use for what I am about to mention because they can cause damage more than one time. You see, what you can do is create a sort of lake of fire to ambush your opponents with a single available roadway crossing it. The computer won't think much of it at first. It will simply aim for you and pick the fastest route. This means that it may in fact travel over large amounts of fire droppings to get to you. After a while it will no doubt blow up because of the amount of damage it takes. You have to be careful yourself not to fall into your own traps sometimes. The land mines and box droppers are especially hard to see.

#### Cheat Codes

(Hold down Ctrl and Shift for all)

- 1.Type "Getdown" while playing. This will automatically make every one of your opponents go crazy on you (in TRIP only ) After you die you will automatically advance to the next level. Sweet, no?
- 2.Type "wigglesburger". It makes the screen bounce or "wiggle" a lot. Pretty useless though.
- 3.Type "thirdnostril". It increases your radar capabilities drastically.

#### Program Requirements

100% IBM PC-compatible Pentium 90 MHz computer  
(Pentium 133 or higher for 3-D acceleration), U.S.  
version Microsoft Windows 95 operating system, 16  
MB RAM, 135 MB uncompressed hard disk space for  
full install, 80 MB for minimum install, VESA local  
bus (VLB) or PCI video card with 2 MB RAM, 16-Bit  
High Color, Quad speed CD-ROM, 100% Sound Blaster-  
compatible mouse and driver, joystick or gamepad,  
modem play supported, null modem play supported,  
Internet play supported.

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##### File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication  
must be sent in the following format. Please use  
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not conform will not be used. The article must be  
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and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used.  
Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve  
(12) points.

- '• No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- '• No Indenting of any lines or "special  
gimmicks"
- '• No underlining!
- '• Columns shall be achieved through the use of  
tabs only. Or, columns in Word or Word Perfect  
format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the  
space bar.
- '• Most of all.. PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!
- '• There is no limits as to size, articles may be  
split into two if lengthy
- '• Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG,  
TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- '• Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.)should  
be sent along with the article separately
- '• Please use a single font in an article. TTF  
Times New Roman 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong  
Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail  
or call. On another note. the ASCII version of  
STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line"  
As the major Online Services move away from ASCII..  
So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and  
improved readability. The amount of reader mail  
expressing a preference for HTML as opposed to our  
Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately  
11 to 1 over the PDF edition. Cited are size,  
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in HTML far outnumber both PDF and ascii. HTML is

now a reality. On our web download page is a selection of HTML. As you can see, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward. If, however, the ASCII readership remains as high as we see it now, you may rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate Intranets as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about. It looks like it is here to stay.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor  
rmariano@streport.com  
STReport International Online Magazine

#### STReport ConfidentialO

News, Tips, Rumors, Expos^'s, Predictions

SuperSnoop's associate, BaldKitty, submits..

Report for 3/12/98. . .

#### THE PRESS HAS PART OF THE STORY...

Although there is much speculation in the press about the motives of Hasbro in going after Atari, all of them (thus far) are not accurate. Much has been made over the retro market. And, in all honesty, the market does look good. However, to simply expect Hasbro to only remake the retro-atari titles for the likes of the PSX and PC is quite laughable.

There is a console out there. There are 2 consoles out there. I'm quite sure you all have 1 in particular, in mind. Well, fear not, Atarians...Why not ask VM Labs about Hasbro. I think the 2 companies know each other well. Secondly, there is a in house job that also looks very impressive. Spec sheet includes: 8 MB Ram 8 MB Rom 1.0 GB HD 4 MB Video RAM 3 D Hardware Motorola CPU Programming to make the PSX look more like a Ph.D. The system easily outpaces the PSX and the N64. Internal documents don't show the same for X (meaning, X is more powerful than the in house cat.) Which of these will see the light? If the mags are right, neither...if I am right, 1 of them most definitely will. I'm willing to bet on which one, as well.

ATARI IS LITTLE MORE THAN PAPER.

"Atari" as a company no longer exists. Any products you see with the Atari name will only be of the Atari name.

\$5 MILLION COST SEEN AS "A STEAL"

Company officials with Hasbro still find it hard to believe they got Atari lock, stock and barrel for the price they did. SEC Investigators do as well. Who's to blame...well, we'll just have to see on the ultimate scapegoat, won't we.  
I am the baldkitty...  
END TRANSMISSION

## THE BALDKITTY REPORT #2

### ACCURACY OF THE BALDKITTY

The bald gato does not know all, but does know much. Even now, as most are still in shock about the recent events, more is on the horizon. The furless one always intends to make sure Atari faithful know first. And know accurately.

### PAPER TIGERS (HEHEHEHE)

Everyone knows that Game.Com is a tremendous failure. Expect it to make a graceful and quick disappearance thanks to KB Toys and other such discounters. Hasbro will be releasing a portable color system, mainly to compete with GameBoy. Which would you rather have? Backwards compatibility with the Lynx, or Game.COM? As of right now...the Lynx looks to be the frontrunner.

### WEASELS AND SKUNKS AND LAWYERS

The bald one's sources tell him that at one point in time, Hasbro was willing to fork over substantially more cash for Atari. However, the dire situation of JTS demanded an immediate influx of new operating capital. Just how much is substantial? Try 10-25 times more than the final closing price.

### BS, AND I AINT DISHIN' IT

The sale of Atari will not affect in any way the release of Battle Sphere.

### VM LABS...OH, HOW ARE YOU

While the bald one cuddles up with a blanket by the fire, word has it that VM LABS and Hasbro also very "cuddly." Case in point...Hasbro Interactive is in possession of a software development kit. Case in point 2...Hasbro is also a potential licensee for hardware.

### MICROSOFT SPURNED?

The original plans for any Hasbro home system included a possible Windows CE interface. Thankfully, only Sega will be tapping Microsloth for its Katana system. Word also has it that Sega is ready to repeat the mistake of the Saturn...namely, sending the Katana out the door with an unbelievable list price, and unfinished development tools. Not to mention a buggy OS.

### PROJECT X...GET YOUR PROJECT X

The hairless mess understands that Hasbro did approach Atari with designs on snagging the Jaguar II. However, it was decided that backward compatibility was less than desirable.

MORE TO COME, ONLY FROM THE BALDKITTY.

### BACKWARDS COMPATIBILITY AND MONKEYSHINES

Project X is not, never has been, never will be backwards compatible with the Jaguar. Is Project X being licensed by Hasbro? Baldkitty's sources say yes. Will the Hasbro X system be labeled Hasbro? Baldkitty's sources say no. Will it be labeled Atari? Baldkitty knows the answer.

ATARI SANS JTS

What will be the main effect for end users? #1, Atari is expected to return to some form of name recognition.

ATARISOFT REDUX?

There has been much speculation that the only reason for the acquisition of Atari is to release classic Atari games for next gen systems, much like Atari released its licensed games for the Apple ][, the C64, TI 99/4A and PC during the early 1980s... The speculation is incorrect.

However, don't be suprised to see updates for classic games.

#### SEC INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY

Baldkitty's sources indicate a three pronged investigation featuring representatives of Treasury (IRS), Justice (FBI and Attorney Generals office), and, of course, the SEC.

Wanna guess at the outcome?

At this point, its too early to say. However, don't be suprised if plea bargains aren't made in the near future. Could one of the Tramiels be in hot water? Could be, says the Kitty.

(Oh my.... Shades of the "Don Mills Affair!"

..editor rfm)